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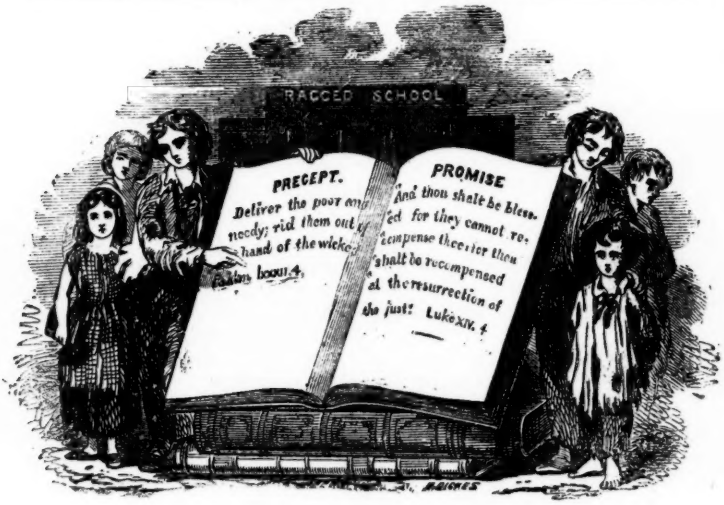
THE

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION MAGAZINE.

No. CLVII. JANUARY, 1862. Vol. XIV.


RAGGED SCHOOL
PRECEPT.
Deliver the poor and needy; rid them out of the hand of the wicked. Psalm lxxxii. 4.
PROMISE
And thou shalt be blessed for they cannot recompense thee for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just. Luke xiv. 4

"The word of the Lord endureth for ever."—1 Peter i. 25.

PROFITS DEVOTED TO RAGGED SCHOOLS.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—The Committee beg with thanks to acknowledge the receipt of a hamper of clothes from Mr. Peart, a chest of shirts, &c., from Miss Ray, a parcel of Magazines from Mrs. Sutton, a box of clothing from Mrs. Ditmas, a basket of articles for Fancy Sale from Hon. Mrs. Grantham, one dozen shirts from Mrs. Reade, and two parcels for Wentworth Street School from an Anonymous Friend.

We are requested to acknowledge for the Paid Ragged School Teachers' Association 10s. from R. Hanbury, Esq., M.P., and £1 1s. from W. J. Maxwell, Esq.

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JOSEPH G. GENT, *Secretary.*

THE

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Contributions will be thankfully received by the Treasurer, Hon. Secretary, and the Members of the Committee; by Messrs. Nisbet, Berners Street; Hatchard, Piccadilly; Seeley, Fleet Street and Hanover Square; the Bankers; and by the Secretary, Mr. William F. Blake, at the Office of the Society, 4, Trafalgar Square, Charing Cross.

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BY the mercy of God, we are now just entering upon a new period of time—an unknown future. Oh, what will it reveal to us, our families, friends, country, and the world at large. Thank God much, very much, is wisely hid from us; but all is known to Him who orders all things after the council of his own will, and that will is governed by perfect love. However, in this the Christian has a source off great consolation amid all possible changes. Stern adversity may be permitted to strip off all domestic comfort; affliction, personal or relative, to the utmost; death may rob of the dearest earthly treasures; national calamities may harass and disturb; and even the world itself be convulsed by revolutionary changes; but in the midst of all to know that the Lord reigns, and that the believer's "life is hid with Christ in God," is a sure rock of refuge. Therefore, let us all try to keep before us during 1862 the exhortation, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might: for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom in the grave, whither thou goest."—Eccl. ix., v. 10.

Subscriptions and donations in aid of this Institution will be thankfully received by
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THE

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION MAGAZINE.

Papers, Original and Selected.

THE LAST FIVE YEARS' GROWTH OF THE RAGGED SCHOOL UNION:

A PLEA FOR SPECIAL AID.

THE financial crisis of the Ragged School Union, though at the first glance depressing, ought not to occasion any discouragement to its supporters. For, seeing that it is not through too lavish expenditure, or loss of public approbation, but rather through the continuous growth of the system that its coffers are nigh exhausted, we ought rather to feel deep gratitude to Him who has so signally blessed our social and evangelistic labours. From many facts, to some of which we shall advert, it would appear that it is not the death, but the very *life* of the system which thus renders an appeal for further aid necessary.

Like all healthy things, Ragged Schools have been characterised by vigorous growth. The workers have neither retrograded, nor rested content with present achievements. The romance which once invested the system may have vanished before stern facts, yet the moral heroism which nigh twenty years ago caused Christian men and women to storm the hovels of St. Giles, and the dens of Field Lane is not yet extinct—nor will it be, so long as three thousand teachers, with Christ in their hearts and the Bible in their hands, labour assiduously to ingather the destitute and the criminal classes into the fold of the Good Shepherd.

To us who have watched the progress of the Ragged School enterprise from the beginning, no feature is more pleasing than this, viz., how every step taken has led to another step in advance; so that machinery at first merely tentative has become the parent

of still greater efforts. For example, Penny Banks were at first properly restricted to our scholars; but when it was discovered that in many cases the parents were the real depositors they were so "broadened out from precedent to precedent" as to include adults, and thus to leaven the whole district with habits of prudence. Thus, out of eighty-six Penny Banks, held in the Ragged Schools of London, no less than fifty-six receive money from the parents and friends of our scholars. It is a fact like this which causes Ragged Schools to stand out in such bold outline, that those who do not fully appreciate their Gospel aspect feel at least that they are *a power in the State*, and so wish them God-speed.

Warmly supported as Ragged Schools have from the first been by men of literature or philanthropy, it only needed the sanction of the legislature to attest their value as engines of social improvement. On two occasions has such sanction been accorded. The first was given in 1858, when a Committee of the House of Commons reported that "Ragged Schools have produced beneficial effects on the children of the most destitute classes of society inhabiting large towns." This opinion was reiterated last year by another Select Committee of the House of Commons — the year, be it remembered, when the greatest blow ever levelled at the Ragged School system was struck. As the avowed enemies of Ragged Schools broke down under the stringent examination, we are not surprised that the Committee *unanimously* reported that "Ragged schools are strongly impressed with a missionary character; their primary object is to reclaim and civilise a child, and then place it in some honest calling." And further, that "Ragged Schools have undoubtedly been of considerable benefit."

We have indicated that the Ragged School Union has been characterised by growth from its outset, and thus, that each year of its history has seen the birth of new, or increased energy thrown into old operations. Nor is this one of those mere assertions which cannot be tested, seeing that we can appeal to dry statistics to confirm our statements, such as may be consulted by all. For example; it appears by the Report of the Ragged School Union, that in 1845 there were only 20 Ragged Schools in London, with 2,000 scholars; and that was considered a wondrous work in behalf of those who, in morals and mind, were sunk as low as the natives of the Feejee Islands. But in May, 1861, that number had increased to no less than 176 schools, with 27,070 scholars in daily attendance, and with 34,230 on the books.

But we need not refer to a period so remote as 1845 to prove the growth of the system, since it will be still more clearly seen by comparing the statistics of May, 1856—the figures on which our last appeal for special aid was made—with those contained in the Report of the Ragged School Union for 1861. For clearness and conciseness we shall divide these statistics into two branches; namely, the machinery employed, and the population reached during both periods.

I. Machinery.

	1856.	1861.
Sunday Schools	128	207
Day Schools	98	161
Night Schools	117	215
Penny Banks	61	86
Parents' Meetings	34	88
	438	757

These figures show a total increase of 319 operations in the short space of five years. As they are all in vigorous action, well may we exclaim, as we look at these results of labour and prayer, in mingled wonder and gratitude, "what hath God wrought!"

II. Population.

The same principle of growth is observable when we contrast the population reached by our evangelistic labours in 1856 and 1861. Happily, the facts thus presented are antagonistic to the time-honoured adage of "much cry and little wool." For it will be seen that, with increased machinery, there has been a corresponding increase in the number of the children or adults placed under our charge during these periods.

	1856.	1861.
Sunday Scholars	16,937	25,260
Day Scholars	13,057	17,230
Night Scholars	8,085	9,840
Parents' Meetings	1,061	2,307

This shows an increase of 8,323 Sunday scholars, 4,173 day scholars, 1,765 night scholars, and of 1,247 parents during the last five years. Again we say, thanks be to God who has thus caused the dew of the Spirit to rest upon our labours!

As might be supposed, this development of machinery and great increase in the population embraced, has not been effected without causing increased expense, as well on the part of the affiliated schools as of the Ragged School Union. That the connected

Ragged Schools are economically conducted, is shown by the fact that the officers of the Ragged School Union, in their examination before the House of Commons stated that the total cost of the non-Industrial Ragged Schools did not exceed 13*s.* 8*d.* per head per annum. This sum is about a moiety of the expense entailed by the education of a child in a National or British school.

It would seem from the balance sheets of the Ragged School Union, that in correspondence with the enlargement of the operations and population embraced, has been the increase in the Annual and Capitation Grants. Thus, in May, 1856, 121 Ragged Schools and Refuges received Annual or Capitation Grants amounting to £2,427; but in May, 1861, no less than 144 were aided with Annual or Capitation Grants, which amounted to £3,141. This shows an increase in Annual Grants, in five years, of £713, or about a moiety of the annual subscriptions of the Ragged School Union.

If then continuous growth is a sign of life and energy, does not that simple fact include a plea for increased help? For had not Ragged Schools been as successful as they have been—in other words, had the operations decreased, or our scholars diminished—the local schools would not have had any claim to increased help, and the coffers of the Ragged School Union would not now need to be replenished. Their mere success then has brought the Ragged School Union into financial difficulty, and thus rendered a special appeal needful, unless it consents—which, as foster-parent of the movement it assuredly cannot do—to permit the affiliated Ragged Schools to hoist their flags of distress in vain. But never has the Central Society rejected the claims of the local institutions in the hour of emergency; but rather it has regarded their pecuniary difficulties as a just plea for increased help. Hence it is that, in addition to the regular Annual Grants, it has contributed no less than £1,630 for the liquidation of debts of the local schools during the past five years.

The Divine benediction has so signally rested on our united labours, that it is to no human source that we point for the origin of this great crusade against social and spiritual misery. We believe that the plan, in all its ramifications—as well in its conception as in its varied machinery—was of Divine birth; and hence we consider that its continuance and its success is in surer hands than that of man. It is then to our heavenly Father that we would ever look in faith for aid, both pecuniary and personal; nor,

seeing how interested he is in the redeeming work of his beloved Son, do we think that we shall look in vain. Yet, as God, in his infinite grace has permitted, nay commanded, believers to co-operate in the blessed task of filling heaven, we consider those to be most Christ-like who, by prayer, purse, or labour, most strenuously strive to win the souls of their destitute or outcast brethren for glory.

In faith, then, we leave these facts and these inferences for the prayerful consideration of our readers. We say in faith—for we do not believe that the race is yet extinct of those who consider that, whatever be their earthly possessions, they are, after all, but *trustees* of the Lord's silver and the Lord's gold. Of this, at least, we feel assured, that gold is ever well laid out when expended for Christ; in fact, that it is the only gold that will bear interest in the Eternal City! Thus, both as regards time and eternity, the axiom of the Great Teacher still proves true, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

RECIPROCATION.

BOSTON, U.S., AND FIELD LANE.

A STRANGER some time since entered the Field Lane Ragged School, and was received with the courtesy always shown by the officers of that school to visitors. The gentleman noticed every thing, and admired much. He made himself known as a minister from America, and was deeply interested in all plans for benefiting poor children. The visitor, on returning home, described the school and its scholars to the children of his official care, who have since sent the following letter, addressed to the Field Lane Scholars:—

The Harvard Baptist Sabbath School, Boston, U.S.A., to the Field Lane Ragged Schools, London, England.

DEAR FRIENDS,—Our pastor (Rev. Daniel C. Eddy, D.D.) having just returned from Europe has told us of the visit he made you, and the scene he witnessed in your midst. He tell us that on Sabbath-day, July 14th, in response to some remarks made to you by an American, you voted to send your *love* to the children of this country. We accept that love in the name of Jesus, our loving friend, and wish you ten thousand blessings in return. We have heard of your school before, and have seen pictures of your school-room, in which you are represented as all sitting down engaged in the study of the Holy Word of God. We are very glad to write to you, wishing you much virtue, intelligence, and usefulness in this life, and endless glory in the life to come.

Our school-room is about twenty years old. We have 450 scholars and 43 teachers. Some of our scholars are little tiny boys and girls, three or four years old; and some are grey-haired men and women of threescore years. Once a month we have our "Sabbath School Concert;" where we sing, pray, repeat passages of Holy Scripture, and have addresses by our friends and teachers. When next we meet we will be sure to remember "Field Lane" in our prayers. We will ask God to bless you, and make you very good and very happy.

We think we ought to love England very much, because our ancestors came from there, and because we derive from you so much of our religious literature, and so many good and valuable things. We hope the time will never come when there will be war between your country and ours. The English and Americans should love each other, because they have the same blood flowing in their veins, because they believe in the same glorious Protestant religion, and the same blessed Bible. Your Saviour is our Saviour; your God is our God; your faith is our faith; and, thanks to God, your heaven shall be our heaven.

So then, dear friends of Field Lane, we stretch our hands across the ocean to grasp your own. We send our cordial love back again to you, and wish you for Jesus' sake ten thousand blessings.

Our kind and beloved superintendent (Hon. G. W. Cochran) will send this letter to the very excellent Mr. Mounstephen, your faithful teacher. God bless you all.

(Signed on behalf of the School),

For the Girls,—	*For the Boys,—*
Mary A. Ellwell.	Benjamin Field.
Mary A. Hawkins.	Benjamin Eddy Holland.
Mary H. Wyeth.	Willie Elder.
Mary Eva Ham.	Charles H. Eddy.
Mary F. Smith.	Charles Tirrell.
Martha L. Carter.	Sammy Cushing.
Martha E. Whitney.	Albert Lowd.
Adelia A Crocker.	Georgie Laroche.
Annie L. Eddy.	Charlie Letherbie.

EDUCATION TO BE GOOD MUST BE SUITABLE.

It seems now to be almost universally admitted, that the children of the poor must be educated; the politician and the philanthropist see that crime must increase if education does not, and the Christian feels that they are his especial charge—the legacy of him who said, "The poor have ye always with you."

Ragged Schools are gaining ground so fast that it is scarcely needful to advocate them as a necessity of the age. The question is not so much are the children of the lowest classes of society to be educated, but *how* are they to be educated?

We, who are guardians appointed by God to look after them, must carefully consider for what we are to train these young creatures. All Christians of course are agreed that the first and most important point is to endeavour, as far as in us lies, to train them for the kingdom of heaven, to teach them the word of God, and try to bring them under Gospel influence. But as they are to live in the world, they must be fitted to earn their bread in it, and it is a very serious question what situation we are educating them to fill.

Most scholars of Ragged Schools are children of either wretchedly poor or vicious parents; therefore to raise them above their parents is right and proper; but to what should it be our aim to raise them? In God's providence society is so arranged that there are a variety of situations in life, and the lower ones must be filled as well as the higher, whether well or ill depends much on the training to the young persons who are to occupy them hereafter. It was an old-fashioned notion—now nearly exploded by common sense and justice—that the poor were better left in ignorance, that servants who could read and write did not perform their duties so well as those who were utterly uneducated; but the reaction from this gross absurdity has led many benevolent persons to carry education for the lowest class beyond what is needful for their happiness in an humble station, and thus led them to be conceited and discontented, and unfit for the situations which are often the only ones open to them. I would not for a moment put any hindrance in the way of real talent, but if a boy has a mind of a very superior order, or a real genius in some peculiar line, he is pretty sure to find friends who, if he is deserving in his moral character, will help his own efforts, and the very difficulties which surround him at first are the right test as to the reality of his powers. But we cannot have Ragged Schools arranged for exceptional cases; so the question is, What station ought the *average* of our scholars to be trained to fill, and what teaching is best suited for them?

There are numbers of poor but hard-working and honest artizans, small tradesmen, &c., who pay for the education of their own children, and are independent of charitable aid; if the children of thieves, drunkards, and idlers are raised by a more costly education *beyond* these, it may naturally lead the honest man to think, that, after all, it would have been better for his children if he had neglected them. This is an age of competition, and no one can, in our free country, be withheld from trying for any place on account of poverty or disreputable parentage; but it is more than doubtful if young people are really the happier for obtaining a position in life very much above that in which they were born, except, of course, so far as their own position was miserable from vice or want.

A lady offered to give the best girl in a Ragged School the advantage of being instructed in washing and ironing, that she might be qualified for the place of a laundry-maid, for which there is now great demand. But the mother, a miserable creature (quite innocent of soap and water in any way), indignantly refused this kind offer, as such a place was quite below *her* girl, who should get something "*light and genteel.*" Now this is not a solitary case, but one out of many, which leads one to think there must be a tendency to raise ragged scholars too much, and to make them unfit for the very position which should naturally be theirs.

The difficulty of obtaining servants for small or humble situations is a con-

tinually increasing one, especially in our great cities. Now, were there anything degrading in domestic service no Christian ought to regret this, or to train young persons for such a life; but, on the contrary, we know that an errand-boy or a kitchen-girl may be as happy and respectable in their path as their master and mistress in a different one. Thank God, ours is not a land of slavery; no man or woman need stay a single moment in a place where they are ill-used—they do not (like the wretched negroes over the water) work with the fear of the lash hanging over them. The honourableness of a "light and genteel" service, compared with one in which strength, activity, or skill are required is very doubtful, or rather is *not* doubtful to any person of common sense. We ought to try and show our poorer neighbours that menial labour is *not* degrading, and that to do whatever is fitting in our circumstances is honourable before men, and pleasing to God. No officer at the Crimea thought it beneath him to cook his own dinner if occasion made it necessary to do so, and no *true* lady is above sweeping a room, mending clothes, or making a bed, if the circumstances in which she is placed make it advisable to do so. We know of the wife of a colonial Bishop, who was in the habit of "doing up"—as ladies express it—her collars, &c., because she thus saved the great expense of getting out an English servant, and had more to spend in the service of God among the heathen who surrounded her.

But too often those who have been born in a station so low that the humblest domestic service would raise them, have so much foolish pride as to look on it at best as a last resource. If by our teaching we in any way foster this feeling, we must certainly be doing harm. Without going as far as the milliner we have heard of, who gave away her soiled artificial flowers to poor girls, and boasted of it as an act of charity, we may yet be giving our scholars, unintentionally, views and tastes as unsuited to them as artificial flowers.

What ought to be the chief instruction in Ragged Schools? Every Christian at once replies, the Scriptures; for if that be not the ground work of education how can we expect a blessing on our efforts? But even where this is fully admitted, sufficient time is not always devoted to it, and if this be the case some less essential branch of study should at once be knocked off the list. Our scholars need not have a minute technical acquaintance with the historical portions of the Bible, as in trying to obtain it the more essential part is sometimes neglected; but they should all be instructed to *search* the Scriptures, and be able to give a reason of their faith, so that they may go forth forewarned and forearmed to contend against the difficulties that await them in this evil world. We cannot do more than this; no teacher can make Christians, he can only bring his pupils to God's armoury, and offer them the sword of the Spirit and the helmet of salvation; and it is no small blessing to be permitted to do this for the poor children of whom we are guardians.

But our scholars ought to be able to *read* as well as to search the Word of God. I mean to read it aloud; and it is a question whether care and time enough are bestowed on the mere learning to read among poor children. All ladies who read with their maid servants, agree that not one in a dozen can read aloud a chapter of the Bible intelligibly and agreeably to themselves and their hearers; and the usefulness of pious poor persons among their

neighbours is, I believe, often hindered by the way in which they read. There is an improvement among the present generation; still reading is not sufficiently attended to, and those pupils who leave school at twelve years old seldom are able to read well. Is not the cause of this partly to be found in the attempt to teach too many things? A child's mind will only stand a certain amount of exertion in a given time; and with ragged children taken off the street at various ages (some having to begin the alphabet at ten or eleven years old), the ignorance of everything except mischief is usually so complete, that they ought not to be expected to come up to those of a higher class, who have been early trained. If Ragged Scholars are to study "physical geography" and "natural philosophy," as was proposed at a certain school not long since, the reading and Scripture must be neglected, or the children overworked. If a boy is taught the simple outlines of geography, and the rudiments of arithmetic, and (besides some general information) is able to read his Bible fluently and intelligently, and to answer questions on the great doctrines of the Gospel, his teachers may surely feel that they have done enough for him. Should he be possessed of very remarkable talents, he can, with what he already knows, add to his store, and work his way upwards; if not, he may be just as happy and respectable in an humble station. With the girls, however, the difficulties and the evil produced by over-education—or rather a mistaken style of education—is much greater than with boys. They are more easily rendered vain and conceited, their minds more easily thrown off the balance. They soon get to prefer showy to useful learning; just as they like embroidery better than plain work. The mothers, used to rags and dirt, do not care to have them instructed in this important branch of female education; and sometimes so many hours are given to other things that plain sewing is sadly neglected. After reading and Scripture knowledge, it is for girls of this class the most useful part of their school-training, and no superintendent should allow it to be cut short, or the more disagreeable task of mending and patching to be omitted. If a little girl can mend her father's coat and sew on his shirt-buttons, she is doing her part to improve the comfort of a comfortable home; and though we do not want our scholars to become seamstresses at the miserable slop-work of the cheap shops, if they were able by making and mending for their families, to spare the necessity of purchasing ready-made clothes at such shops, the saving would be great in more ways than one.

It is the opinion of some who have thought much on the subject, that the best and most natural lot for Ragged scholars is service of some kind or other. The army and navy afford means of providing for many active and promising boys, while the demand for domestic servants of all classes offer an almost unlimited supply of situations for both sexes. But if the instruction given them is such as to make them fancy these and similar stations in life beneath their dignity, it will present a great and increasing difficulty to the friends of the poor. It has often been observed that none are so proud as those who have come from the lowest place; and everyone who has had much to do with Refuges, Dormitories, &c., knows what absurd manifestations of pride appear among their inmates. "Why did you leave your place?" asked a lady of a young girl who had been placed out with every

prospect of doing well, but who had "turned up" again to the great disappointment of her friends at the Dormitory in about a month's time. "Well, ma'am, the mistress parted me, though I am sure I did my best; a more honest, cleanly, hardworking girl never was;" (and a long category of virtues followed.) "Why did she part with you, then?" the lady continued. "I put impudence on her, ma'am," was the reply. Oh, the numbers of Ragged School girls, and boys too, that have lost comfortable places by "putting impudence" on their masters and mistresses, or the upper servants who had the direction of them!

We cannot take away the pride that is in these children's hearts. Alas! we have too much of it ourselves. Those who best know their own hearts, know how deeply this besetting sin of pride is ingrained in our fallen nature, and how much the work of the Holy Spirit is needed in every soul, and how much of chastening is sometimes required ere we attain the humble and contrite heart in which the Almighty condescends to dwell; but we can just try our utmost not to *foster* pride, not to unfit our dear scholars for the life which seems best suited to them. May God enlighten all of us who are engaged in this great and blessed work, whether at home or abroad, helping our infirmities, and making his strength perfect in our weakness, so that all may be done for the glory of Christ! M. L. W.

THE EMIGRANT TEACHER.

The following letter has just been received from a gentleman who, for many years, was an active and very successful voluntary Ragged School Teacher in the west of London. He had been instrumental in sending a large number of young men out as emigrants, which, in theory, had familiarised him with the difficulty of an emigrant. His friends will be glad to learn that he is likely to overcome the difficulty of his new position, and establish himself and family in the land of his adoption.

July 15th, 1861.

Dear Sir,—It is now just a year since I left England, and now venture to think that a few lines will not be considered an intrusion upon your valuable time. I arrived in Auckland on the 21st of November, and immediately proceeded to the Waste Lands Office to have my land orders endorsed. I was not unmindful of your advice as to trading, but I soon learned that with my small capital I had no chance of success. I found trade, in general, very dull, and provisions of all kinds nearly as dear as in London; vegetables, except potatoes, too dear for me to think of buying. I was advised by the Deputy Lands Commissioner to wait for land in this place, which, at the time, was being surveyed; accordingly, I made up a party of six, and with the surveyor for a guide, came up to see the land. It at once commended itself to my mind, bearing a most luxuriant crop of all the plants which I had learned were indicative of good soil,—and now that some portion is cleared, I am happy to find that my estimate of its value was not erroneous. I have 380 acres of as good land as any in the province, and suitable for all

kinds of grain and roots, and much of it made naturally fruitful by running streams. The sale was, for reasons unknown to me, delayed much longer than was anticipated, so that I did not obtain possession until the 20th of March. This entailed a long residence in Auckland, during which neither my son nor I could obtain any employment; indeed, we were told by the bishop and by the Colonial Secretary, to whom I had letters of introduction, that it would be useless trying; the best thing, they said, was to get on the land as soon as possible. But I was more fortunate with my daughters. Four of them have obtained situations as governesses, in good families, where they are very happy, and are earning their own living, and, as far as possible, aiding me with their salaries, which, though small, are more than sufficient for their present wants. We were mainly indebted to Bishop Selwyn for this amount of success, and which, in a great measure, compensates for the expense of living so long in Auckland.

I must now tell you what I have done. I came up here by the first opportunity, after getting the land; it is about seventy miles from Auckland, approached only by a small coasting vessel. The month of April was occupied in clearing land, and building a house upon it; this cost me £30; it contains a kitchen and three bed-rooms, and it is considered a very good house for the bush, but it is, in fact, what in England would be called a tolerable shed; its extreme dimensions are twenty-four feet by twenty-four feet, and is eight feet high; there are ten of us in family; we have no furniture except home made, but, on the whole, are very comfortable, though, of course, very different from what is called comfortable in England. We are very thankful to have a roof over our heads, and to be in the enjoyment of good health. Our food consists of salt pork, and potatoes, tea and bread; from this we rarely get a change; sometimes a neighbour, who is quite a Nimrod, sends me a joint of wild pig, and vegetables. I have about two acres of fern lands cleared, and one of bush; I have, in fear and trembling, sown one with wheat; the other is not yet sweet enough, and I have great doubts of the first; but as a bushel and a-half of seed-wheat costs only fifteen shillings, and this being the latest month for sowing, I thought I would venture, as bread is so very large an item in my housekeeping. I shall, in September, get in a good breadth of potatoes. I have a large supply of vegetable seeds, given me by Messrs. Sutton, of Reading, who were good enough to say that, though they did not know me personally, they did by repute, and it afforded them much pleasure to aid me in this respect. I have sown a few, but would not risk many, as some of my neighbours have lost all their first sowings, from the sourness of the land; my nearest neighbours are two miles off, and have all been in the colony two seasons. I am the first settler upon this block. I have purchased two cows, each of which has given me a calf. With the exception of a few fowls, these form my whole farm stock. I have not been fortunate in butter-making, but the milk we have is highly appreciated. I fear you will think that with four pair of hands — myself, my son, and two young men (fellow-passengers, who have taken a very strong liking to me, and serve me for their food only), that I have not done much, and had I not laboured with my own hands I should not have been satisfied; but I find that the labour of clearing is really very hard work, especially for hands unaccustomed to such work.

After the fern is burnt off, the land has to be cut up with a heavy hoe, and left to fallow; six months of fallow is recommended, and when men can afford to wait, they do not run any risk. Had I bullocks I should make light work of it, as four bullocks would plough up sixteen acres while we are hoeing up one, and sixteen acres would give me a return of at least £15 per acre the first year.

I forgot to tell you that our ship stayed three weeks in Melbourne; there I found one of my former scholars in the Ragged School, who left England about twelve years ago. He is doing well; is married; and has his mother and brother, for whom he sent, and whose passage he paid. I wish I could tell with my pen his delight and his unbounded gratitude, shewn in many, many acts of kindness to me and mine. He placed his house at my disposal—and would have made me stay there the whole three weeks, had I wished it; but I was obliged to restrain his generosity in more points than one—saying that he owed all he possessed to me, he would give me his house and work for me for twelve months, if I would but stay in Melbourne. There is another thing I have omitted to tell you, which I think you will like to hear. I have been able to establish a regular weekly service on Sunday among the settlers, and as many as thirty-four have been present. We have no church nearer than Auckland, an impossible distance; the Sabbath was but little observed. We have no schools; but an effort is being made to raise one, and my son has been asked to take the mastership. The bishop has said to one of my daughters that he would like to appoint me a Lay-Reader, so I may yet be more useful.

I am, dear sir,
Yours most gratefully,
C—— H——.

WHAT A BLESSING IS A BLANKET!

"Oh, what a blessing is a blanket!" said old Deborah Wilkes, as she untied the parcel just received from a kind-hearted neighbour, whose basket and store were better supplied than her own.

Poor old Deborah had shivered through the first winter months, and then, to her great joy, came the parcel with the blanket and a few more "creature comforts." For many a night had Deborah lain in bed, shaking with cold, for the want of a blanket; but when the frost and the snow came, and coals rose to two shillings a hundredweight, things were worse with her than before. No wonder that the sight of a good, thick, warm blanket comforted her heart. "Oh, what a blessing is a blanket!" said she, well knowing the comfort it would be to her. "May God in his mercy bless the sender, and give me a thankful heart."

That night the prayer of old Deborah was longer than usual; and not a few tears of joy trickled down her aged cheeks, while thanking Him, who in the day of his rough wind had stayed his east wind, and moved the heart of her neighbour to help her in her season of distress. And think you that her neighbour was none the happier for her deed of charity? Indeed she

was, and heartily did she thank God for putting it in her power to enjoy the luxury of doing good.

"What a blessing is a blanket!" said Deborah, as she wrapped the bedclothes around her, preparing for repose. Such as are well fed, well clad, and have plenty of fuel for fire, little think what they endure who have none of these comforts. Poor Deborah was a struggler with poverty, and well knew the pinchings of hunger and cold.

But Deborah was too happy at once to go to sleep, for many a long night had passed since she had known the luxury of a warm bed; so she lay thinking of God's goodness to an unworthy creature like her, and of her neighbour's kindness. The wind shook the crazy tenement, and every now and then she heard the hail driven against the panes of her little window; but what cared she? Neither the driving wind, nor the falling hail could hurt her, for she was snug and warm, thankful and happy. "Thank God for his mercies! What a blessing is a blanket!" were the last words pronounced by Deborah's lips before her eyes were sealed in slumber. "Thank God for his mercies! What a blessing is a blanket!" were the first words spoken by Deborah Wilkes when she awoke after a night of refreshing repose. That blanket had filled her heart with thankfulness, and her mouth with praise.

If all who possessed the means would give, each winter, a blanket to the poor, how many who are destitute would feel themselves to be rich! The kind-hearted friend of Deborah has added to the comfort of her needy neighbour. May joy be her lot, may peace be her companion in her latter day, and the blessing of those who have been ready to perish come upon her. "Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. . . . . The Lord will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing." (Psalm xii. 1—3.)

THE WORK AND ITS WORKERS.

Illustrated by the Jurston Street Ragged School.

This school arose originally from a Sabbath evening service, conducted by a few zealous individuals, with a view of introducing the Gospel to the degraded and neglected adult poor of the locality. Their efforts were obstructed by the intrusion of from 30 to 100 noisy and reckless youths, which occasioned the non-attendance of this small but interesting congregation of adults. Thwarted in their original design, the teachers were led to encourage the attendance of these disturbers, whom their heavenly Father had so providentially brought under their notice; and about June, 1839, they commenced their arduous undertaking. The number of children increased, while as yet the labourers were but few; but it pleased God to smile on their efforts to spread divine truth, and in June, 1840, it was resolved to carry out their plans to the fullest extent, and officers were fully appointed for that purpose. From that period 40,000 children, at the lowest calculation, have passed through the school. These children have belonged to some of the most degraded of the population of Southwark and Lambeth.

Those who can remember the habits of the children at that period, and contrast it with the present, are constrained to exclaim, "What hath God wrought?"

Many events have transpired to demonstrate the truth of this assertion; among others is the circumstance of twenty-eight of our children having received the prizes awarded by the Ragged School Union, in 1860, for having kept their situation for twelve months. Each of them received satisfactory testimonials from their employers; fifteen were boys, and thirteen girls. The officers and teachers consider this circumstance to speak volumes, especially as the children were once not only clothed in rags, but were associates of disreputable characters, and frequenters of the lowest dens of infamy, such as casinos and gaffs. Most of these children still attend school, being permitted to do so by their employers, which is a convincing proof that they consider such institutions and the instruction they afford are calculated to furnish them with honest, respectable, and efficient servants. Many other things might be said respecting the order maintained, and the marked attention of a large number of children to the instructions and advice given by their teachers, and, above all, that many are anxiously concerned about their spiritual and eternal welfare.

The average attendance throughout the year 1860 was 402; for every Sabbath evening throughout the year, boys, 182; girls, 149; infants, 74. Average number of teachers, 27—13 female, 14 male. The highest number of children on any evening was 495, the lowest, 293. The highest number of teachers, 34, the lowest, 22.

Each child who is early in attendance is entitled to one ticket, and if his conduct is good at school he is presented with another before leaving. When twelve of them are obtained they are collected for one of a large size, value 2d., and with these they can purchase for themselves Bibles, Testaments, Hymn Books, &c., or any other book approved of by their teachers. From the commencement of this system, December, 1850, to December, 1860, there have been distributed 3,249 copies of the Word of God, 3,290 spelling-books, 711 copies of Uncle Tom's Cabin, 54 prayer-books, a large number of Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress, Holy War, Richmond's Annals of the Poor, besides a variety of miscellaneous publications at a cost of £312 11s. 4d. During the last year 144 bibles, 107 testaments, 384 spelling, 90 Uncle Tom, 54 prayers, and many other works, at a cost of £31 5s. 9d. Total number in ten years 11,467.

Connected with this school is a Working Class for Girls. The children are taught twice a week to make their own garments, and allowed to purchase them at half the cost-price of the materials. The total number of garments from December, 1850, to December, 1860, is 1,596, at a cost of £135 10s. 8½d. The total number of garments made during the year 1860 was 131, at a cost of £15 1s. 4d.; towards this sum the children contributed £8 6s. 7d., leaving a balance of £6 14s. 9d. to be paid by the teachers.

On the 16th of June, 1855, a Penny Savings' Bank, under the auspices of the Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury, was opened for the benefit of the School and neighbourhood. The number of depositors is upwards of 4,000, and the total amount received is above £4,000. The beneficial effects of these provident habits on the lower classes are apparent in many instances,

and in some strikingly so. Some have said that, prior to their becoming depositors, it was not unusual to take some article of clothing or furniture to pledge, when they stood in need of a new pair of shoes, or were behind in their rent. To use one man's expression, "I was always pledging Peter to redeem Paul, *vice versa*, so I could never have Paul and Peter both at home. It is true I could have saved it, but while I had it, and a thought came into my mind, I want so-and-so, the pence flew; but now, however small, I carry them to the bank, and have done so ever since I put in the first egg there." A woman said, "I have been married several years, and have been dependent on charity; I expect to be laid aside again, and then I shall be independent, for I have enough in the bank to carry me through this trouble." A man who had been thrown out of employment, and was a few weeks in arrears for rent, was waited on by his landlord, and a thrilling contention took place, "I want my rent!"—"Really I cannot pay you this morning."—Well, I shall want the 18*s*., and unless I have it by this day week I shall send the broker in." This gave the man time to draw the amount from the bank, and save the sacrifice of his property. The most striking one was that of a lad who had saved something weekly out of his scanty earnings; his mother was a widow, she was taken suddenly ill; the poor woman was found in this state by the son when he returned from labour. A parish doctor could be obtained, but what was she to do for comforts? "Never mind, mother, you shall not want—I have something yet."—"What can you have, my child?"—"Something of my own!" Suffice it to say, the money was withdrawn, the comforts of the mother attended to, and the boy said to me, in the simplicity of his mind, "That was the happiest moment I have ever had in my life, when I withdrew that little money and carried it to my mother, and made her happy too."

A man who earned upwards of two pounds per week had, by his intemperance, brought himself and family into a state of destitution, was induced by his wife to deposit a small sum in the bank, and he continued to add to it every week, until there was a sufficient sum to purchase a pair of shoes for each of his children, numbering five. Frocks, coats, trowsers, bonnets, gowns, &c., were supplied next; sundry articles were recovered from the pawnbroker's, and now his house is as comfortable, and his family as happy, as any in London.

Several lads, who formerly expended their money at the low theatres and other disreputable places of amusement, have saved enough to purchase them decent clothing, whereby they have been enabled to obtain situations, and are now earning an honest livelihood. A mechanic, who has one of these lads as an apprentice, said, "I assure you, he came to his work the other morning not a little pleased—he had a new suit on—and said, 'Master, look here!' pointing to his dress, 'what do you think of this, and where do you think it came from? Why the *Penny Bank!* I began with a few pence, and now see the result!'"

A mother of a family gives each of her children a trifle every week, and has done so for more than two years, and what are the results? In the commencement of the present year, the amount drawn from each book averaged nearly two pounds; with this, the doctor's bill was paid, the children clad, a few needful household articles purchased, and, to use the

woman's own expression, she said, "I feel as independent as a duchess, and am thankful I was induced to commence saving. I have tried it at home many a time, but never could succeed."

Many men, who formerly expended their money at the public-house, now deposit it in the bank, and when out of employment, or sickness overtakes them, have a fund of their own, instead of applying to the parish. A man, who was a terror to his family and his neighbours, when intoxicated was implored by his child to save his money, and was so impressed by her entreaties, that he promised to give her something; but the wife was incredulous, and said, "His promise is nothing—would that I could rely on it!" Saturday evening came—a small amount was deposited; the public-house was not visited as usual, nor has it been since. He still deposits, and is a sober, steady man. He is anxious for books from the school; and at the last application made by his daughter, who is a scholar, she said, "Father wishes you to recommend him one, but it must be religious! Father is always reading, and he never goes out of an evening. He has read 'The Pilgrim's Progress,' 'Bunyan's Holy War,' 'The Dairyman's Daughter,' and 'Anxious Enquirer,' all of which I have had from the school."

Many girls have saved money enough to purchase a box and decent clothing, and are now in service. None of them are without a Bible; and some of them have other books, such as "Bunyan's Pilgrim," "Richmond's Annals," &c. Many other cases of usefulness, both of the school and bank, might be mentioned; but the annals of eternity alone will unfold the beneficial influence of these and similar institutions.

It would be impossible to describe the many advantages arising from this institution: hundreds of young persons of both sexes have been enabled to assist their parents when ill or out of employment, and from 300 to 400 persons have supplied themselves with the comforts of life during the inclement season of Christmas, 1860. A poor lad, who has saved something from his weekly earnings, withdraws a certain sum once a week that his parents may may not be dependent on charity. All honour to him, and may many more be induced to imitate such exemplary conduct!

HONEST PETER.

(Extracted from "The Youth's Companion," an American Paper.)

"HERE, sir, is this your property?" The question was asked by a little ragged boy in an English city.

"Yes, my boy, that is my purse; where did you find it?" returned the gentleman.

"You dropped it about five minutes ago, after you stepped out of the carriage," replied Peter.

"And were you not tempted to keep it?" continued Mr. Milton.

"I was for a moment, sir, but something told me it would be wrong, and I ran after you to give it up."

"Something told you, did you say? What could that be? Did you hear anybody speak?"

"I heard something in here speak," replied the boy, pointing to his heart.

"Something in there!" exclaimed the gentleman. "What could that be?"

"My conscience, I suppose, sir."

"Your conscience! What is that?"

"Mother used to tell me it was the voice of God," replied Peter, while a tear stole down his cheek.

"Good!" exclaimed Mr. Milton, who was himself affected. "Do you go to school?"

"I used to, sir, when my mother was alive, but since she died I have had no clothes."

"Where is your father, my poor fellow?"

"Dead too, sir."

"Where did he live?"

"He was a sailor, and was always from home. I never saw him but twice or thrice. He died at sea."

"What was his name?"

"Martin he called himself, sir, but mother used to say his name was Milton."

"Milton!" exclaimed the gentleman.

"Yes, sir, Henry Milton."

"Henry Milton," repeated the gentleman with an expression of astonishment.

"Yes, sir. Mother said he belonged to a rich family, but had run away, and turned out bad."

Mr. Milton paused for some moments while he scrutinized the features of little Peter. "Follow me," he returned, "and I will see what can be done for you."

Peter followed the gentleman to a tailor's shop, the owner of which was a very rich man, and well acquainted with Mr. Milton's family. "Mr. Peel," said Mr. Milton, on entering, "do you recollect my poor brother Harry?"

"Very well, sir," replied Mr. Peel. "What has become of him? I have not heard of him for years."

"Nor I either," returned Mr. Milton, "till a few minutes ago. You know what a dreadful fellow he turned out. He is dead, and here is a son of his."

"Not possible, is it?" remarked Mr. Peel.

"Fact," said Mr. Milton, who related the circumstance which led to the discovery.

Peter was soon washed, and dressed in a nice suit of clothes. The next week found him a student in a private school, and in ten years from that time honest Peter—who had listened to the voice of conscience, which his mother had told him was the voice of God—was member of Parliament for his native city.

The Children's Gallery.

A MOTHERS' TESTIMONY OF SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

A poor woman in London applied one Sabbath morning for a Bible for her daughter, who had left the school to go to service. On being asked if her children had been benefited by the school, she replied—"Yes, I can never be too thankful that they were ever brought here. When they first came, my husband and myself lived a most wretched life, and never attended any place of worship; but when my two eldest girls had attended some short time, they said to me one Sunday morning —'Mother, you never go to a place of worship; why do you not?' I knew not what to say, I was deeply affected, and thought how sad that I should have to be taught by my children my duty to God, instead of my teaching them. I began to go to a place of worship from that time, and soon after my husband also. I cannot tell you, sir, what a happy change has been effected in the family. All my children have turned out great blessings: my eldest girls have gone out to service, have obtained good characters, and are doing well. Oh, sir, when I see the bad conduct of many children, I feel that I ought to bless God for Sunday Schools."

LOVE.

How many does a lovely example win to goodness! Who has not felt, as it were, tinctured with the goodness of those with whom they have been holding pleasant and friendly communion? There are some people, we are told, who exert on others a moral power resembling the effects of climate upon the rude and rugged marble; every roughness is by degrees smoothed off, and even the colouring becomes subdued into calm harmony with all the features of its allotted position. All excellences, either of mind or heart, are, in some mysterious manner, actually infectious.

ENGLISH BOYS IN AMERICA.

"About three years ago," says an American gentleman, "two lads of fourteen and sixteen years of age came to me as inquirers about their souls. I asked them how they came by their religious feelings. They told me they had a few months before left their Sunday School in London—the John-street School—and that, just before their departure, their teacher, a pious lady, had put into the trunk of each a copy of James's 'Anxious Inquirer,' and had prayed with, and counselled them. That little book, with that Sabbath School teacher's prayers and instructions, was the seed planted. It accompanied them across the Great Atlantic Ocean, and in the city of Philadelphia, the fruit was made manifest in the conversion of these two boys to Christ. From that time to this they have been consistent followers of Jesus.

A short time since, I spent a Sabbath in London. My time was precious, but I thought the best way for me to spend part of my Sabbath would be to go to the school, and seek out the teacher of these lads. I did so, and related, for the encouragement of that teacher in the great work of the Sabbath School, that her words of love and her gift of love had followed her scholars across the deep waters, and had been blessed of God to their conversion. Let all teachers be encouraged, and let the young seek to get lasting good from all the loving deeds and words of those who seek to lead them to Heaven through Jesus, the only Saviour.

THE LITTLE SEAMSTRESS.

Some girls, that we have known, think it very hard that their mothers expect them to do a little sewing on Saturday. After being at school all the week, they think they ought to have a holiday, forgetting that their mothers have been at work all the week, and work Saturdays too. How would they get along in Mary's place in the following story?

One afternoon last winter, in visiting some of our Industrial School girls, my walk brought me to a low wooden house far on the east side of the city, down by the river. As I went up the ricketty steps, a smiling face showed itself at the window, and nodded welcome. I stepped into the room, and found myself in the midst of a family circle. All looked up at me so cheerfully that no one would have guessed that they were hungry and half frozen. There was the hard working mother toiling over her needlework—some coarse check shirts from a down-town "shop." Near her sat the father, pale and thin from a long confinement with a frost-bitten foot, which he was nursing upon a chair. In the intervals of pain he sometimes tried to help his wife on the long straight seams of the shirts; but he couldn't do much poor man. Close by her father, on the floor, crouched little Letty, stitching away like a busy bee on some small bit of family task. On a chair by the window sat, or rather clung, poor Tom, the pet and care of the household. Tom is an unfortunate, half-witted lad, with a big warm heart, but without sense enough to enable him to take care of himself. Then, too, his limbs are so weak that he cannot stand or even sit unsupported, and must be tended to like a little child. So Tom had all his life been watched over with the tenderest love, though in such an humble home, and no doubt many a shilling has been spent for him which could be ill-spared by the others.

As soon as I was seated, Tom, to do me honour, scrambled down from his chair, pushed himself across the room with much sighing and tumbling, and nestled down beside me. It seemed my sister had done him a kindness long ago, and he knew me from my resemblance to her, and so came to pay his respects. The poor boy had to stay in-doors all winter, but when the warm days come he is able to crawl out to the porch and sit in the sunshine. He had his glazed cap and comforter on, in order, I suppose, to be ready in case of a sudden favourable change in the weather.

It warmed my heart to see the loving looks they all had for poor Tom. But the one of all the circle which pleased me most, and the one I had come to see, was our little scholar Mary, a sweet delicate child of about fourteen years, who sat on a footstool near her mother, doing her share of the shirts. She is the stay of the family, I know. There, all day long, she sits on her low stool, stitching, stitching, like a woman; never complaining when the coarse needle will not go easily through the stiff work: never saying "Isn't it hard?" nor crying because her poor thin fingers ache; but doing all that she can quietly, and making haste that the bundle of work may be ready before pay-day. She had been kept home from school for several months. Such a clever little seamstress could not be spared when the family were going through the winter—the winter, which is such a gay, happy time for the rich, but such a dark season of struggle for the poor.

I loved little Mary as I looked at her, and I thought how even in her poor, tattered gown, and with her plain, pale face, she was far more charming than many a rich lady's child.

Often when I have felt weary and disposed to be irritable and discontented, have I thought of little Mary, so helpful and patient. And I want my young friends who read this to think of the little seamstress Mary, whenever they find themselves beginning to be fretful and out of humour about any task they may have to do. If any little girls have sewing given them to do, and if they find the seams long, and the needle won't go through nicely, let them not grumble, but think of little Mary and her patience.

But the example need not be for girls alone; little boys may profit by it too; and moreover let them, when their parents think it unwise for them to be out romping about with other boys, remember poor Tom, how constantly shut up he is, and yet how good-tempered.

Correspondence.

SUNDAY EVENING RAGGED SCHOOL PENNY BANKS.

To the Editor of the Ragged School Union Magazine.

Sir,—As a New Year is about commencing, when many Ragged School Teachers re-dedicate themselves to their work with an increase of earnestness and zeal, I venture to lay before your readers some particulars of one of our school agencies, in the hope that it may be adopted by others and found useful.

In April last, the Teachers of the King Edward Sunday Evening Ragged School determined to open a Penny Bank for the benefit of their *scholars*. On the back of the card they issued, was printed—"The object of this Bank is to afford to the scholars an opportunity of saving their pence, and forming provident habits." And, among other rules, "That sums of one halfpenny may be received," and "That all payments be made from six to half-past six, on *Sunday Evenings*."

On the first Sunday (April 28th), 63 children—34 girls and 29 boys—became depositors, and the receipts were 12s. 2½d., being an average of 2½d. each child. On Sunday, Nov. 24th, after an interval of 30 Sundays, the 180th card was issued, and an amount of 28s. 5d. was received. In this interval, £20 13s. 7½d. has been deposited; and £8 12s. 7d. withdrawn by 63 children. The ages of the depositors vary from a little dot aged four years with 13½d., to a lad aged 19. Several depositors have saved a sovereign, and then withdrawn it for clothes. Assistance to friends, &c., and other points of interest, are registered.

The Teachers are now able to look back, and measure the result of their efforts. The following may be noted:—

An increase in the number of scholars.

A *punctual* commencement of school, with a full attendance of children.

A conviction in the scholars' minds, that the Teachers really mean them well.

An increase of affection for the Teachers and reverence for the authority of the school, with a wholesome fear of ejection.

An improvement in the behaviour of the children, with an increase of self-respect, and a better personal appearance.

Measuring their work by Sabbatical laws of an old dispensation, the Teachers *may* be considered "wanting;" but endeavouring, as they do, to know and *do* their Master's will, and actuated with a strong desire to save souls, and benefit many lives, they feel that the half-hour previous to school opening is well employed, if a vantage ground for further appeal be gained.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Thomas Jones, *Superintendent*.

[We have inserted the foregoing for the purpose of giving an opportunity to our friends to express their views on the propriety, or rather the right, of employing Sabbath time for such a pure secular purpose.—Ed.]

SCHOOL ENTERTAINMENTS FOR PARENTS.

To the Editor of the Ragged School Union Magazine.

Dear Sir,—A tea meeting was held at Ogle Mews Ragged School on Wednesday evening, the 9th instant, for the parents of children attending our schools. About one hundred were provided for at the expense of the teachers and their friends. After tea the company were amused by recitations, readings, songs, a little chemistry, and stereoscopes, making altogether the most successful meeting of the kind we ever had.

The object in view is to increase the attendance at our Prayer and Mothers' Meetings, and to deepen the interest of those who do already attend, by showing them that we feel an active interest (as far as lies in our power) in entertaining them, as well as in bringing them to the knowledge of a merciful Redeemer.

I venture to suggest that meetings of this kind need not be very expensive; and if held at this season of the year at other Ragged Schools, would not only tend to increase the attendance for the winter, but would also be productive of much good, by promoting a personal acquaintance with, and also a better feeling of unity between, the teachers and the parents of those they are endeavouring, by Divine Grace, to bring to a saving knowledge of the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

I am, dear Sir, very truly yours,
Frederick Pitts, *Hon. Sec.*

Poetry.

THE MISSING TWO.

A FACT.

'Twas Sabbath morning, and the sun
Was shining bright and fair;
And nature all around looked gay—
'Twas pleasant everywhere.

With hurried steps I walked along
The dusty, well-worn road;
And down a long secluded lane,
Unto the house of God.

And then the little youthful band
Entrusted to my care,
With smiling faces welcome me,
Upon my entrance there.

To see that all were in their place,
I cast my eyes around;
And soon among the little group
Two missing ones I found.

And I resolved to seek them out
As soon as school was o'er:
For never had I known those two
Absent themselves before.

So off I went, and soon arrived
Before the garden gate;
And there I saw the touching sight
That I to you relate.

The door was open, and within
My two young pupils see—
Clasped in each other's fond embrace,
And weeping bitterly.

The elder child, just seven years old,
Was faintly murmuring too:
"Oh, brother dear, if mother dies,
What shall we children do?

"She says that we must both be good,
But I don't know the way."
Brightly the little boy looked up,
Dear sister, let us pray:

"For teacher says that Jesus Christ
Will little children hear;
And, perhaps, if we should ask him, too,
He'd cure our mother dear."

So down beside a broken chair
The two sweet children knelt;
And the younger one addressed his God
With the earnestness he felt.

"Oh, mighty God, do hear our prayers,
And don't let mother die,
But keep her here a little while,
With sister Jane and I!

"And be to us the power and will
To love and serve thee given,
That when we're called away from earth
We both may dwell in heaven!"

I entered, and I took the child,
And clasped him to my breast,
And kindly wiped his tears away,
And lulled his fears to rest.

Sweet boy! his prayers are answered now—
His mother's life was given:
But ere two months had roll'd away,
His spirit was in heaven!

And there, amidst the blood-bought throng,
He tunes his infant lyre,
In far more elevated strains
Than mortals can acquire.

MY "HOBBY."*

(By a Friend to Ragged Schools.)

Go on, my "Hobby!" never fear,
Though some may stand aloof and jeer,
To mark thy flanks so lean!
We are not bound for time, or place,
Nor have we entered on a race
Of uselessness or sin.

Sure-footed friend, (I've found thee so!)
Together let us ambling go,
Emboldened by the past—
Whatever trials we endure,
Be this our motto,—"Slow but sure,"—
So shall we win at last!

R.

Hastings.

Notices of Meetings.

LEEDS RAGGED SCHOOL.

On November 15th, the second annual meeting of the Ragged School and Shoeblack Society took place in the Music Hall. The Mayor occupied the chair.

The children protected and maintained in the institution were present, and presented a sight calculated to excite the strongest sympathy for this recognised agency for good.

The Mayor, in opening the proceedings, showed that the influence of this movement had caused a great diminution in juvenile criminality, and improved the class frequenting the common lodging-houses.

Mr. Hammond, one of the secretaries, read the report of the committee, which stated that the institution had partially flourished during the last twelve months. The most marked event had been the occupation of the present eligible premises in Edgar-street, York-road, which had heartily, generously and gratuitously been lent by the trustees for the purpose. The amalgamation of the Richmond-hill and Leylands schools tended to facilities for supervision and economy. The numbers at present in the school are 178; admitted since the last report, 357; average daily attendance, 125; number who have passed through the school since its commencement in 1850, 880. Sixty-four boys have been employed during the year as shoeblacks, whose earnings during the year have been £198 10s. 3¼d. As much as 10s. 9d. was earned by one boy on one day during the recent great Agricultural Meeting. The average number of lads employed in this capacity is eleven. Twenty-one boys are now in the Night Refuge, through which 129 have passed since the commencement, 82 having been admitted during the present year; 56,300 meals have been given to the children at an average cost of 1d. a head. Upwards of 700 articles of clothing have been made or repaired by the girls. Comfortable homes and regular employment have been secured for 32; 8 have been bound apprentice; 15 have left the town, and are doing well; 9 have been sent to reformatories, 11 sent to prison, 11 in the streets again, and the same number have been sent to the Industrial School and Workhouse. To show that the influence of the school reaches the class of children espe-

* Vide "Ragged School Union Magazine," p. 263. Nov. 1861.

cially contemplated, it was stated that there were now on the books 42 fatherless and 15 motherless children, 8 with neither fathers nor mothers, 36 abandoned by their fathers, 21 repudiated by their mothers, 7 whose parents are thieves, &c., &c., 12 had been in gaol, 57 have been picked up by the master in the public streets. The committee expressed their regret that the income was by no means adequate to meet even the most economical expenditure, and that unless the ensuing year witnessed a considerable increase of subscriptions, the operations of the society must inevitably be curtailed.

Mr. W. Joy read the financial statement, which showed that the total income of the year had been £890 12s.; the subscriptions had been £314 16s. 6d., donations, £295 15s. 2d.; and there was a balance of £49 19s. against the institution for the year. There is due to the treasurer £250, which is about the same position as last year, owing to the expense of the alterations, and the removal to Edgar-street.

Mr. John Jowitt moved, and Mr. Appleton seconded the adoption of the report.

Mr. Baines, M.P., moved a resolution expressing approbation of the movement, and gratification at its extended operations and increased success in Leeds.

The Rev. G. W. Conder seconded it.

The Rev. J. F. Bryam said, in connection with the Manchester Ragged Schools 800 children had been provided with situations, and of 1,800 only 200 had returned to the streets. There were only 30 juvenile offenders in the borough gaol, whereas five years ago there were 120. He preferred preventive to punitive institutions. It was a noble thing to man the life-boat, but the erection of a lighthouse might have prevented the necessity for it. In fifteen years £900 had been realised in the industrial department of the Manchester Ragged School. They had taken advantage of the act giving power to magistrates to send juvenile street beggars to an Industrial School for two or three years, the parents having to pay so much a week for their maintenance or go to prison. He thought an extra effort should be made in Leeds in order to carry this system out there.

Mr. Gillespie, superintendent of the Ragged School Union of Liverpool, gave a brief relation of facts by way of encouragement to much further exertion.

The Rev. E. Jackson, in moving a vote of thanks to the Mayor, said he felt that after this meeting the claims of the Ragged School would stand on a stronger basis than they had ever done before, owing to the powerful manner in which they had been advocated.

Mr. Joy seconded the motion, and it being carried, the meeting dispersed.

ROBERT-STREET, NEW-CUT.

The fifteenth annual meeting of these schools was held 26th November, at St. Thomas's National Schools, Waterloo-road; Mr. Ex-Sheriff Lusk, who presided, said that, probably, to talk about ragged schools might be thought very common; but, when considered in a philanthropical point of view, it was a very interesting subject. By observation, it would be seen that the poorest child who walked the street was made as perfect as the children of the upper classes; and when they considered that the poor children in our streets would in a few years become men, and the men who would have to fight our battles, to pay taxes to the State, and to contribute to the greatness of England, it would at once show the importance of cultivating the moral and intellectual education of those poor creatures. He was glad to be able to attend an institution like that, and he hoped all present would aid so good a cause. (Cheers.)

The Secretary then read the report, which stated that in the boys' school all had not been done that could be wished, but still it had done much good. Some had no father, some no mother, and some had both; but, unfortunately, their degraded morals had so bad an effect upon the children that the duty of the teachers had been rendered most onerous and difficult. The boys' school had had 160

boys entered, of whom 140 were on the books; the average daily attendance was eighty-five, and the evening attendance eighteen. Many of them read well, write, and cipher, several had got into situations and were doing well, and five boys had received prizes from the Ragged School Union for retaining their situations upwards of twelve months. A great many boys had been got into the Shoe Black Brigade, which was now called the Ragged Schools' College, where it was to be hoped they would be brushed up and polished, and presently shine in a more exalted position. In the girls' school there were 150 names upon the books; the average daily attendance was ninety, and twenty in the evening. There were twenty-nine in situations, twelve of whom were doing well; twenty-eight wrote in copy-books, and sixty-eight upon slates. 328 articles of clothing had been made by the girls during the year. In the Sabbath-schools there were thirteen teachers, and the average attendance of scholars had been thirty-eight in the morning and 106 in the afternoon. At the evening school the attendance had sometimes been 160, whilst fifty had been turned away for want of accommodation. An adult Bible class and mothers' meetings had been most successfully carried out. The penny bank had progressed satisfactorily; the number of accounts now open was 2,402; the amount deposited during the year was £928 11s. 8d.; and the amount withdrawn £456 12s. 6d.

The balance-sheet showed that the total receipts were £147 10s., and the disbursements £138 9s. 6d. The liabilities since the account was made up were £18.

The meeting was addressed by Rev. Newman Hall, and by Messrs. Elliott, Hytohe, Murphy, Dubber, Sexton, and Hill.

COLLINGWOOD STREET, FORMERLY OLD CASTLE STREET.

On November the 12th, a meeting was held in the school premises, situated behind Shoreditch Church; Joseph Jackson, Esq., presided.

The Chairman, who on rising was greeted with cheers, said it appeared to him that Ragged Schools were nearly, if not quite, the best institutions which England possessed, and especially were their benefits to be seen in such a close and pent-up neighbourhood as that in which they were at present found. Education was wanted in this eminently favoured land, as much or a great deal more than in heathen lands; and his heart rejoiced in the fact that thousands upon thousands of children were reached, cared for, instructed, and benefited by these Ragged Schools, who, were it not for the existence of such institutions, would grow up, live, and die in the lowest state of depravity, ignorance, and wickedness which it was possible to conceive. He had been connected with this district by business, and in means of usefulness for many years and was very much pleased at the results of labours such as they were contemplating to-night, which had come under his special notice. Many of the young people who had been under their training had gone to distant colonies and other parts, but had not forgotten those places wherein they had received their earliest good impressions. He remembered one lad who had emigrated, had succeeded in business, and sent home £10 to assist the funds of the school; and many others in his recollection had risen to respectability, and some to positions of eminence. He was a great lover of the voluntary principle, and regarded the voluntary efforts put forth for the good of the rising population as the greatest bulwark of our land, and would be rewarded in years to come by the production of a people whose traits of character would be their love to one another, their truthful and religious life.

The meeting was addressed by the Rev. C. Lightwood, Rev. W. Tyler, and Messrs. Pursell, Fox, Masham, Kittle, George, and other gentlemen.

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION,

ESTABLISHED FOR THE SUPPORT OF

FREE SCHOOLS FOR THE DESTITUTE POOR.

OFFICE—1, EXETER HALL.

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COLLECTOR.—MR. W. F. BLAKE, 11, Wellington Terrace, St. John's Wood, N.W.

BANKERS.—MESSRS. BARCLAY, BEVAN, & CO., 54, Lombard Street.

The following Contributions have been received in aid of the Ragged School Union from the 20th of November to the 20th of December, 1861.

General Fund.

	£	s.	d.
A. L., Another Giver (Box)	0	10	3
Anonymous, per Miss Hadfield	5	0	0
Anonymous	0	10	0
Arnold, Mrs.	1	0	0
Ballance, John, Esq.	2	3	0
Barclay, J. G., Esq.	100	0	0
Beadbridge, Miss	1	1	0
Blackden, Rev. C., and Sisters	5	0	0
Boulcott, J., Esq.	1	1	0
C. E. L.	2	10	0
Challis, J. H., Esq.	10	0	0
C. H. S.	3	0	0
Cobb, F. W., Esq.	1	1	0
Darling, Dr.	1	0	0
Ditmas, Major F.	1	1	0
Ditmas, Mrs. F., per Boxes	0	16	2
Mrs. Jennings	0	1	1
Mrs. Clunie	0	5	0
Mrs. Liardett	0	5	0
Miss Marsland	0	5	0
Henry Hill, Esq.	0	10	0
— Peele, Esq.	2	0	0
Mrs. Peele	1	0	0
Mr. Redpath	0	2	6
Mr. Carter	0	5	0
Mr. Veasey	0	3	0
Mrs. Carstairs	0	5	0
Miss Wood	0	2	6
A Friend	0	2	6
Miss H. Foy	0	5	0
Miss F. Thomas	0	5	0
Ditmas, Miss Laura Maria (Box)	0	10	0
Ditmas, Baby Shaftesbury Violet's (Box)	1	5	1
Doxat, C., Esq.	1	1	0
Eastwick, Captain	5	5	0
Fawcett, J. B., Esq.	1	10	0
Fawcett, Miss	1	0	0
Fraser, J. W., Esq.	1	1	0
Friends at Hastings	0	13	0
F. W.	5	0	0
Foster, J. P., Esq.	1	1	0
Gascoigne, Mr. and Mrs.	0	5	0
Gurney, H. E., Esq.	300	0	0
Habershon, E., Esq.	1	1	0
Hibbert, Miss C.	5	0	0
Hill, Mrs.	0	10	0
Hobson, Mr. A. S.	21	0	0
Howard, Lady M.	1	1	0
Jennings, Mrs. (Card)	0	9	0
Karr, G. B. L., Esq.	5	0	0
Loft, Miss	0	10	0
Loft, Miss J.	0	5	0
Long, Miss	1	5	0
Lowe, Miss	2	0	0
L. U. W.	0	5	0
Lyn, Rev. J. T.	10	0	0
Maden, the Misses	3	2	0
Maitland, J. Fuller, Esq	2	0	0
Mann, Mrs.	10	0	0
Marston, Miss	1	1	0
Martin, Sir H.	10	0	0
Matthew vi. chap. 3 ver.	20	0	0
Mollison, A. F., Esq.	21	0	0
Morton, Mrs. E.	1	0	0
Northcote, Mrs.	1	0	0
Pain			
Pearson, the Misses	3	0	0
Pritchett, Miss A.	1	0	0
Radley, Miss	5	0	0
Reade, Mrs.	3	0	0
Reader, Elizabeth (Card)	0	5	0
Rice, Mrs.	1	5	0
Rich, H., Esq.	1	0	0
Roberts, Miss (Box)	1	10	0
Rous, Mrs.	1	0	0
Tattersall, Mrs.	1	1	0
Taylor, General, T. M.	10	0	0
Toller, Mrs. S. B.	1	1	0
Trotter, Mrs.	2	2	0
Westmoreland, F. G., Esq.	1	1	0
Wheeler, Mrs. R. W.	1	1	0
W. H. W.	0	4	0
Wright, Mrs. S.	2	2	0

Schools, &c.

Library Fund.

Alexander, Miss	0	2	6

Rag Brigade.

Addington, Right. Hon. H.	1	0	0
Lightfoot, Mrs.	3	3	0
Miller, Mr. Geo.	1	0	0
Portal Miss	10	0	0
Smith, Miss	0	10	0
Wilde, Sir James, Bt.	5	0	0

Agar Town.

Gladstone, Mrs. J. H., at the request of her late father, C. Tilt, Esq.	10	0	0

Bear Yard.

Gladstone, Mrs. J. H., at the request of her late father, C. Tilt, Esq.	10	0	0

Cripples' Home.

C. E. L.	2	10	0

Grotto Passage.

Macgregor, Gen. Sir D.	1	0	0

Little Saffron Hill.

Alexander, Miss	0	2	6

Neal's Yard.

Lightfoot, Mrs.	10	10	0

Perkin's Rents.

Webb, Miss	0	10	0

Webber Row.

Dalton, Miss	2	2	0

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3 ft. wide by 6 ft. 4 in. long	£2	5	0
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4 ft. " "	2	15	0
4 ft. 6 in. " "	3	0	0
5 ft. " "	3	5	0
5 ft. 6 in. " "	3	10	0

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